



California Postsecondary Education Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portantino and Longanecker to Address State Higher Education Board

SACRAMENTO — September 20, 2007 — The California Postsecondary Education Commission will hear presentations by Assemblyman Anthony J. Portantino, Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, and David A. Longanecker, Executive Director of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, when it meets next week on September 25-26, 2007 in Sacramento.

Assemblyman Portantino has a diverse background that ranges from film and TV production to City Councilmember and Mayor of La Cañada Flintridge City. He will present his vision and goals for higher education in California, as well as comment on the Commission's priority issues including: higher education accountability; the state's workforce needs and the role colleges play in meeting them; the extent to which students are prepared to succeed in college; and college affordability. He will speak on Tuesday, September 25, 2007.

David A. Longanecker, who has served as assistant secretary for postsecondary education at the United States Department of Education, as the Executive Director of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, and as staff at the Congressional Budget Office, will address the Commission on Wednesday, September 26, 2007. Longanecker has written extensively and has done numerous presentations on a variety of higher education issues facing the nation and individual states. He will discuss best practices in higher education — and propose ones that would help California maintain and increase its economic competitiveness.

"We are privileged to have two eminent higher education leaders come to speak with the Commission," said Murray J. Haberman, its Executive Director. "David and Anthony are leading the charge to make higher education more accessible, affordable, and accountable."

In the course of its two-day meeting, the Commissioners will also review and discuss reports on student debt and its impact on students; ethnic and gender diversity in higher education; and the state's workforce needs compared to degrees awarded. The Commission will also review three new papers in its series of reports dealing with higher education accountability.

A meeting agenda and Commission reports can be viewed on its website:

<http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/agnd0709.asp>.

The Commission audio streams its meetings via the Internet at <http://www.cpec.ca.gov>.

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.